

who proudly served his country. He accomplished so much for such a young man having been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps achievement medal, two sea service deployment ribbons, a Korean defense service medal, two global war on terrorism expeditionary medals, a global war on terrorism service medal, and a national defense service medal.

Sean Elliott touched the lives of all those he met. He leaves behind his loving wife Catherine and his family in San Juan Capistrano. I hope his memory will continue to bring happiness to the lives of his family and friends. I know that no words can describe the overwhelming grief of his family and friends at this time. The only consolation we here can offer is the thanks of the grateful nation he served and our pledge to support his and all other military families across our country. Sean remains a hero whose memory will continue to provide strength, courage, and inspiration to others.

I thank him for the sacrifice he made to protect our country and to help those who long for peace and freedom. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his loved ones and to his fellow Marines. This unimaginable tragedy reminds us all to cherish those who serve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed two votes during a vote series on July 12, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Aye on Roll Call No. 351, on the Carbajal motion to recommit the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act (H.R. 23) with instructions to the Committee on Natural Resources; and

No on Roll Call No. 352, on passage of the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act (H.R. 23).

MARIYAH HURTADO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mariyah Hurtado for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Mariyah Hurtado is a student at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mariyah Hurtado is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mariyah Hurtado for winning the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING TAMETRICE ECKOLS STRICKLAND

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Tametrice Eckols Strickland.

Among the poets, trailblazers, and educational leaders who have paved the way, one of our local educational leaders is Tametrice LaChelle Eckols Strickland, an administrator, mother, daughter, and advisor. Tametrice Strickland was born August 8, 1973, in Marks, Mississippi to L. T. and Lula Eckols. She has lived in the rural town of Lambert, Mississippi, and she has remained there for forty-three years.

Living in the Delta, God and family were at the forefront of daily life. She has been a member of Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church most of her life. Having a relationship with God has been instilled in her. She is currently an evangelist, and she teaches Sunday School and Bible class lessons to adults, works with Sykes Chapel's Youth Ministry, Confinement Ministry, and Nursing Home Ministry.

Her teachers, family, and peers played a vital part in shaping her life. She really enjoyed school and was an honor student from elementary to high school while attending Quitman County public schools. In 1995, she graduated from Quitman County High School as the class president and class Valedictorian. After she graduated from high school, she attended University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi. After she married in the spring, her first son, Larry Strickland, Jr., was born in the winter of her senior year. However, she refused to allow anything to deter her from her dreams. She became more determined, and she persevered. Later that year, she graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English.

In August 1995, she returned to her hometown because she wanted to contribute to her community. She worked at Southside Junior High as a kindergarten instructor. In May of 1996, she transferred to Quitman County Middle School to teach language arts to sixth grade students. After teaching at Quitman County Middle School for two years, she served as an instructional coach. During this time, her second child, Aikeem Strickland, was born with physical and cognitive disabilities. She traveled to Northwest Mississippi Regional Hospital in Clarksdale, Mississippi and Lebonheur Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee almost bimonthly for years. Yet, she graduated in 2010 with a Master of Arts Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Mississippi.

In the summer of 2010 she enrolled in the Mississippi Alternative Path to Quality Leadership Program (MAPQSL) at Coahoma Com-

munity College in Clarksdale, Mississippi. After completing her internship, she became an assistant principal at Quitman County Middle School. She served as an assistant principal for one year. The following year, she became the principal of Quitman County Middle School, and she served in that capacity for two years. She became the director of the first Alternative Pathway to Excellence Program in Quitman County School District. She worked with students who really needed a second chance and assistance with academic and behavior and tried to inspire them to achieve their goals. Instead of going from the pipeline of school to prison, her students went through the pipeline of school to school, college or a career.

Her life has been impacted by her family, instructors, colleagues, and people in her community. Her former instructors showed compassion toward her and positively impacted her life. Tametrice Strickland has been employed with Quitman County School District for twenty-one years and is currently an assistant principal at Madison Shannon Palmer High School. She is an inspiring example of dedication and determination. During her lifetime, she has strived to support and empower instructors and provide support, opportunities, and pathways for students to excel. Her former students are now innovative, highly qualified instructors, visionary administrators, effective managers, responsible nurses, and productive leaders.

In addition to working for Quitman County School District, she has served as a consultant for Mississippi Valley State University Reading Institute for two years. Additionally, she has served as a site coordinator for the Foundation of Economic and Education Development (FEED) and Motivating Parents and Children from August 2003 through May 2006, Lead Teacher for Create of Mississippi in 2005 and presented at the Mississippi Department of Education Summer Conference in June 2006.

Tametrice Strickland has been composing poems and short stories since she was sixth grade. Today, she is still working on poetry books and short stories to publish in the future. Some of her accolades include Who's Who among America's Teachers, Teacher of the Month, Appreciation Award from the Foundation of Economic and Education Development (FEED) and Motivating Parents and Children Program (MPAC), Inspiring Vision Award from Batesville Job Corps Center, and Outstanding Community Service Award from Quitman County Development Organization, Inc.

On May 13, 2017, Tametrice Strickland received her Specialist in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University. As an educator, her goals remain the same. She wants to motivate students to strive for greatness and discover their full potential. She wants to inspire the next generation to affect a positive change in the Quitman County; this rural location does not determine the students' destination. She believes that students have the ability to discover, create, and excel, and it is their duty to prepare them with the necessary tools.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tametrice Eckols Strickland as an amazing administrator who is goal oriented and making a difference in her community.